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NAZI PROVIDES A LAUGH Plea Of Hitler's Photographer

Col. Noma Comes Back For Trial

COL. NOMA, HONG KONG'S NO. 1 JAPANESE WAR CRIMINAL, LANDED AT FLAGSHIP STEEP AT NOON YESTERDAY. HE HAS BEEN BROUGHT FROM JAPAN FOR TRIAL.

Col. Noma, former chief of the Japanese G-1 department, came to Hong Kong from Divisional Headquarters at Canton in December 1941. He was responsible for the mass murders of 10,000 Chinese and 10,000 British soldiers in Stanley jail up to Feb. 1945 when he returned to Japan.

It has been reported that his ex-mistress, Miss Hui Wong, has been executed. She was caught through the streets of Canton beautifully robed, and shot outside the city.

Col. Noma joined Lt. Col. Kamezawa and Major Kori in Stanley jail.

NO ARROGANCE

Noma, stripped of the insignia and uniform in which he swaggered about Hong Kong for more than four years, was attired in neatly pressed khaki civilian clothes. Under Commando guard he was transferred quickly at the back of the small boat which brought him ashore into the truck which whisked him without a delay to Stanley prison. He carried his own suitcase to the truck.

One estimate at the dock said he seemed about 40 years old. He didn't have much appearance of age.

There was no crowd to watch his transfer to Stanley. He had arrived several times before on a schedule after being brought from Japan about 1941.

Hoffman Tries To Back Out

MUNICH, FEB. 8. A PLEA TO BE "DENAZIFIED" FROM "PROFESSOR" HOFFMAN, HITLER'S PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO IS AWAITING TRIAL AT NUREMBERG HAS SET ALL BAVARIA LAUGHING.

A LETTER ADDRESSED TO A FRIEND IN MUNICH, HOFFMAN WROTE: "I AM NEITHER PROMINENT IN POLITICAL MATTERS NOR I NEVER TREATED MY EMPLOYEES BADLY. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ALL THOSE DREADFUL THINGS AND YET I HAVE TO REMAIN HERE IN JAILING TRIAL."

"After that I shall have to begin to fight to save my fortune (now blocked by the American authorities). I have already succeeded in proving that I made my money honestly."

"The fact that my business was never utilized by the party or propaganda ministry for the purpose of inflammatory or hate propaganda is an important factor in my defence."

"The Americans are very nice to me and the American newspapers have printed some very kind things about me. Now it is being slowly proved that I am a very different person from what was generally believed. I was never a member of the S.S. or S.A. and had no office in the Nazi Party."

But Bavarians know the facts about many "Hoffman rackets" during the Nazi regime—and his attempt to exonerate himself has caused amusement tinged with bitterness.

A "gold badge" Nazi Party member, Hoffman began his rise to the rank of what the Germans called a "bonzen" or big shot when he started business in 1933 with a capital of 300 marks. His career ended in the spring of 1945 with a fortune of over 50,000,000 marks which at the present rate of 40 marks to the pound, gives him a fortune of \$1,250,000 and makes him a millionaire in any currency.

PERIODIC DRUNKARD

Property in his possession at the time of his arrest included five luxurious mansions in various parts of Germany as well as a pretentious villa in Poland, 10 motorcars, enormous stocks of food, including bags of coffee, chests of tea, butter, margarine, meat, wines, spirits and liquor, and a collection of various sorts of all sorts of clothing material.

On the other hand, he owed the city of Munich a total of 2,000,000 marks in taxes.

A periodic drunkard, he would take part in nightly orgies in the notorious "nebenzimmer" or side room at the Rathaus in Munich, where Dorothea von Bruck used to dance naked before the Nazi leaders in furtherance of their creed of what was officially described as "healthy eroticism."

Hoffman became a millionaire because he had the sole right to photograph Adolf Hitler and other Nazi leaders.

At the beginning of his career as a photographer, his chief clerk was Eva Braun which may have accounted for the fact that Hitler later made a "King's Favourite" of this insignificant little photographer.

Wherever Hitler had his headquarters, whether in France, Poland or Russia, Hoffman was always there as a guest of honour and Hitler was on more than one occasion heard to say to intimates that he was eternally grateful to Hoffman for the fact that he met Eva at his house.

A RACKET

But his fortune was made from pictures of Hitler which he took at a cost of a little over a penny and sold in millions—often by direct or indirect pressure—to the German public at five marks in those days around 1940.

Every few weeks a new series of pictures of Hitler would come out and every good party member would find it incumbent on him to dip again into his pockets to purchase yet another record of Hitler haranguing a Party Congress or outlining children at a Hitler Youth Rally.

And in the racket went on, for it was almost a crime not to own a fact to arouse suspicion not to be in possession of the latest Hoffman picture of the "Führer."

Nor were the photographs his only activity. He also produced books on the Nazi movement—filled with appropriate photographs—which sold by the million both at home and abroad. Hoffman's whereabouts, his sale in Latin America alone ran into six figures.

Many foreign press photographers have reason to remember Hoffman's jealousy of his monopoly of taking pictures of Hitler.

Often, at special events where they wanted to take photographs of Hitler speaking or reviewing his troops, they found themselves confronted to very disadvantageous positions.

One art deal—in which he sold a painting to the Reich Chancellery in Berlin for 50,000 marks—earned for him the title of "Professor" conferred by Hitler.

Latest official records uncovered disclose that Hoffman was granted tax exemptions up to 48,000 marks a year.—Reuter.

Australia To Help Hong Kong

MELBOURNE, FEB. 8. FROM THE IMPORTANT AUSTRALIAN STOCKPILE OF FOODS A CONTRIBUTION OF 50 TO 60 MILLION BUSHELS OF WHEAT THIS YEAR WILL BE MADE TO SUCH EMPIRE REGIONS AS INDIA, MALAYA, HONG KONG, SOUTH AFRICA AND NEW ZEALAND, FOOD OFFICIALS DISCLOSED TODAY.

The Australian food cupboard at the end of last year stood at 45,000 tons of meat, 4,500,000 pounds of cheese, quantities of butter, eggs and a million cases of canned goods.

The "Melbourne Herald" said that most of this food has been held for British Food Ministry orders to ease the British crisis.

In Washington, the Agriculture Department said Argentina and Australia together might be able to export no more than 100,000,000 bushels of wheat during the first half of this year because of the "below average" crops.—Associated Press.

Yard Swoop

London, Feb. 8. Scotland Yard has made another lightning raid on London's underworld. In the past 36 hours, 50 arrests were made, thousands of pounds worth of jewellery recovered, and a number of arms were discovered and confiscated.—Reuter.

Britain's Rations Crisis

LONDON, FEB. 9. THE CABINET MET ON THURSDAY TO DISCUSS AGAIN BRITAIN'S AND THE WORLD'S FOOD CRISIS AS REPORTS POURED IN FROM FOODS-PRODUCING COUNTRIES SHOWING THE WORLD'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER.

It was the third meeting this week for the Cabinet, usually summoned only once weekly by the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee.

What measures may have been decided upon, the Cabinet kept to itself, but one fact almost certainly discussed was the tide of resentment against the situation which took the British people back to their lowest wartime food levels.

Diet authorities agreed that the measures to be taken will not cause harm unless the rations are slashed still further.

An official of the National Farmers Union explained that Britain's winter acreage cut last year to two thirds of the 1944 acreage, was still lower this year partly because the wheat acreage subsidies were halted.

A national organisation of small gardeners has urged its four-thousand local branches to grow an extra 10,000,000 pounds worth of food—about a third more than last year.

Leader of the House of Commons, Mr. Herbert Morrison, announced that the parliamentary debate on the world food shortage will be held next Thursday.—Associated Press.

Why Hess Flew To Scotland

NUERNBERG, FEB. 8. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY DISCLOSED THAT RUDOLF HESS FLEW TO SCOTLAND IN 1941 WITH PROPOSALS SEEKING TO UNSAT THE CHURCHILL GOVERNMENT AND MAKE PEACE WITH A NEW CABINET WHICH WOULD ASSURE GERMANY A FREE HAND IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE.

HESS, A SCARECROW FIGURE IN A SECOND HAND SUIT, CLUTCHED HIS LONG HANDS ON THE PRISONER'S DOCK YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND HEARD A BRITISH ARMY OFFICER DEMAND HIS PUNISHMENT AS THE THIRD RANKING NAZI IN THE CONSPIRACY TO PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO WAR.

As the French finished their entire prosecution, the crowded court-room stirred with excitement as young, debonair Colonel Melvyn Griffith Jones addressed the eight allied judges.

Hess, sitting beside Goering, leaned forward. Jerkily his head snapped to attention as charges against him were read to the Tribunal by the calm voice of the assistant prosecutor.

"Hess was involved in every branch of Nazi life and administration," Griffith Jones asserted.

Methodically, he went through a mass of documentary evidence on the prisoner's career, mentioning little more than a phrase or two from each paper.

Originally, Hess was to have been prosecuted by the United States. The British took charge, however, because a number of secret documents which belonged to the British Foreign Office had to be screened for pertinent facts.

Responsibility for the transfer was agreed upon during the Christmas recess. Four banks of flood lights on the court room cast a greenish pallor on Hitler's one-time closest friend. Hess varied his stare by muttering aside to Goering.—Associated Press.

Too Many Colonels

Washington, Feb. 8. Senator Johnson, Democrat of Colorado, urged the War Department to "reduce the number of colonels and get more bright young second lieutenants."

"We've got an army of colonels today," Johnson told a reporter. "Why, we've got more regular army colonels than the governor of Kentucky has honorary colonels."

Sen. Johnson, ranking majority member of the Senate Military Committee, promised to "do something about this."

"I just asked the War Department for its list of regular commissioned officers," Johnson said. "It shows we have 3,397 lieutenant-colonels and only 2,255 second lieutenants. We've got more colonels and lieutenant-colonels than we have first lieutenants."

Congress approved a War Department request for adding some 8,000 officers to the regular army, bringing the total to 25,000. This bill, awaiting President Truman's approval, authorizes regular commissions for temporary officers who served during the war in grades from second-lieutenant through major.

"I certainly hope the army picks up bright young second lieutenants for all those new places," Sen. Johnson said. "The young officers can make the army a career for 20 or 30 more years and really do it some good. Lieutenants and captains are valuable in an army. Too many regular colonels are worthless. We have so many colonels today it's almost a comic opera army."—Associated Press.

Axis Was Just A Big Happy Family

NUERNBERG, FEB. 8. GERMANY FEARED JAPAN MIGHT DESERT THE AXIS SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR AND DISTRICTED THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, ADMIRAL NOMURA, AS A "PRO-ANGLO-SAXON" IT WAS REVEALED AT THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL YESTERDAY WHEN VON RIBBENTROP'S SECRET PAPERS WERE READ BEFORE THE COURT.

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The Nazi Foreign Minister said it was unfortunate that discussions with President Roosevelt were being conducted via

Admiral Nomura "for at heart Nomura is inclined rather to work with the Anglo-Saxons."

Mussolini guessed that the Japanese motive for negotiating with the United States was the result of "Japan's desire to keep out of the war herself."

The Duce referred to a split which had appeared in the United States and quoted speeches by former President Herbert Hoover and Colonel Charles Lindbergh, American flyer hero, as the most prominent opponents of Roosevelt's policy. "I stated the German Foreign Office report which British prosecutors introduced in part."

Von Ribbentrop told Mussolini: "If a forcing hand were played and it were laid down that the American system of protecting convicts meant war the Americans would most probably hesitate because American re-armament is the biggest bluff in the world's history."—Associated Press.

BRITAIN'S NEW CARRIERS

LONDON, FEB. 8. BRITAIN IS BUILDING A FLEET OF GIGANTIC AIR CRAFT CARRIERS, 30 OF WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR SEA WITHIN GENERAL MONTHS. THE "EVENING NEWS" REPORTED.

This programme, it was pointed out, is in conformity with current plans of the British to increase their naval forces.

When this programme is completed, Britain will have the basic ships of its peacetime Navy.

The paper said that three carriers of 45,000 tons each, are under construction, and will be able to carry more than 100 planes each.—Associated Press.

The Weather

Today's forecast:—Moderate easterly winds, fine and warm. Yesterday's temperature:—Maximum:—69 degrees at 3 p.m. Minimum:—55 degrees at 7 a.m.

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ARAB STRIKE

Beyrouth, Feb. 8. The Arabs today staged a general strike throughout Lebanon protesting against the British decision to permit 1,500 Jewish immigrants to enter Palestine monthly.—Associated Press.

DOCTORS STRIKE

Poona, Feb. 8. Twenty-seven doctors and surgeons in Poona hospitals went on strike today, demanding higher wages.—Reuter.

European Identified

A European who was found seriously injured in the Central district late on Thursday night, and who subsequently died, has been identified as Charles May, chief steward of the Blue Funnel ship "Menciana."

May was found at the foot of the stairs of a house in Chin Loong Street shortly after 11.30 p.m. He had apparently fallen down the stairs and sustained head injuries.

Members of the Kennedy Force took the man to the Naval Dockyard Sick Bay in a naval vehicle but he was found dead on arrival.

Star Ferry Search

Some commotion was caused on the Star Ferry Wharf just after office hours yesterday.

The 5 p.m. ferry had just left Hong Kong when a party of eight police and two military ordered it to return. Passengers on the deck were searched and a Chinese was seen to run away, with the police in chase.

It was later learned that the search was a routine one by the Police who were acting on certain information.

Chungking, Feb. 8. Madame Chiang Kai-shek is scheduled to fly to Shanghai today on her first visit there since 1937.—Associated Press.

Navy Takes Over Japanese Barracks

WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF ARRIVING AT KURE THE ROYAL NAVY HAS TAKEN OVER THE JAPANESE BARRACKS AND IS PREPARING FOR THE PARTY AT PRESENT ACCOMMODATED IN H.M.S. GLENEARN.

First ashore were men of N.A.A.F.I. who opened a beer canteen yesterday. Some of the barracks buildings were destroyed by Allied air attacks, but those remaining are suitable for accommodating the Navy. Extra huts will be built on other sites and facilities already include a camp barber, a tailor and a cinema with seating accommodation for 1,500.

Japanese carpenters have installed the beer bar and are erecting counters and shelves for the dry canteen which will open soon. The Naval canteen service in the Pacific has been known to set up shop within a few hours of landing in a new area.

In Japan it is again trying to introduce as much comfort as possible for the occupation forces. "The place will soon be on the top line," said leading canteen assistant Joseph Donnelly. "We shall have a good canteen for the boys in no time."

Craziest Scheme Of The War

WASHINGTON, FEB. 8. RESCUE BY UNITED STATES FORCES OF 30,000 WAR PRISONERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT CHINA, MANCHURIA AND KOREA WHEN JAPAN COLLAPSED WAS CALLED "THE CRAZIEST SCHEME OF THE WAR" BY BRIG-GEN. GEORGE OLMSTED, ASSISTANT CHIEF-OF-STAFF TO GEN. ALBERT WEDEMAYER IN THE CHINA THEATRE.

AWAITING DISCHARGE OLMSTED TOLD HOW HE CONCOCTED THE PRISONERS' RELEASE PLAN AND WAS TOLD BY WEDEMAYER: "THAT'S THE CRAZIEST SCHEME I EVER HEARD OF IN THE ARMY. TRY IT. IF IT FAILS, REMEMBER WE ARE READYING COURT MARTIAL CHARGES AGAINST YOU."

Olmsted continued: "We did the job with 100 armed men and not one was lost."

Olmsted said the command did not have the men nor the means to transport them and supplies from Chungking into the Japanese-held areas so figured if they could confuse the Japanese.

To gain time, the rescues might succeed.

Then he told how B-26 planes, each carrying six men, were sent to the camps with letters telling the Japanese commanders they would be held responsible for any harm done to the rescuers or prisoners.

"It worked," Olmsted said, "but I had sleepless nights until they reported back. At most places the Japanese just agreed to everything. The only trouble we had was with our own men. They all wanted to go on the rescue missions."—Associated Press.

PLANE'S SILENCE

A four-engine land plane, believed to be American, which took off from Oahu, in the Hawaiian Islands, on Thursday morning, has not been heard of since.

The plane left Oahu at 4.30 a.m. on Thursday bound for Canton Island, in the Phoenix group, south of Hawaii, and was last heard of at 6.50 a.m. on that day.

No anxiety is felt for the plane as it is believed she is still air borne and her silence is attributed to failure of the plane's radio.

TRAITOR DEFIANT TO THE LAST

BUDAPEST, FEB. 8. LASZLO BARODSSY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF HUNGARY WHO DESERTED BEFORE A FIRING SQUAD THIS MORNING, PRECIPITATED RIOTS IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS OF LIFE.

"Woe! Hungary from these hands!" the Nazi leader shouted as he faced the muzzle of the rifle aimed in the black gait, courtyard.

Onlookers had been respectful to the man, who had declined a blindfold and stood erect with his silver hair bare.

But at his words they stirred forward. One man shouted "get the priest too!" referring to the priest who had accompanied Barodossy to the wall.

The crowd calmed down quickly, however, when police upbraid their rifles. A hoarse shout of "long live Hungary!" sounded as they fled out quickly.

The former prime minister, defiant to the end, shouted additional epithets until the guns toppled him.—Associated Press.

II STILL MISSING

Ketchikan, Alaska, Feb. 8. The number rescued from the wrecked and broken liner Yukon stood today at 480 and the Alaska Steamship Company said its list of persons unaccounted for stood at eleven.

At the same time the Northwest Medical Supply Company in Seattle said the city's supply of penicillin was exhausted completely by the demands of the Seward, Alaska, hospital for treatment of survivors. The missing list included six army men, two crewmen and three civilians.—Associated Press.



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Citizenship

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has given the Chinese people what seems to be a necessary reminder that Democracy is not a political machinery that can be conferred upon a nation and that it is not a system of administration made available to the citizen by simple process of the voting of a constitution. Speaking on the other day on the highly momentous outcome of the Political Consultative Conference, the Generalissimo remarked: "In our society there is a vigorous about freedom and Democracy, and under the leadership of government by law and abiding by law is the only way to achieve Democracy. It should first accustom ourselves to government by law." The Generalissimo's address did not indicate that China's President had any further on the subject, but it might well have been done with advantage. The enthusiasm with which the results of the inter-party conference have been greeted are more than justified. In the pursuit of a political deal in China, it was essential that a beginning be made along the lines laid down in Chungking at Chinese New Year. It is an encouraging beginning and high hopes are rightly centred upon it. But, and it is a very emphatic but, the warning given by the Generalissimo needed to be given. Some of the commitments given by the Generalissimo were based upon a fallacy, the belief that the agreement has created the basis of Democracy for China, whereas it amounts to no more than an important first step towards it. The essential truth is contained in the point underlined by the Generalissimo: "The basis of democracy lies in the traditions of a people and their way of life. Unless those traditions and that way of life are in or can be brought into harmony with the true spirit of democracy, it cannot operate successfully, and the political form is virtually meaningless. In his different language, the Generalissimo was emphasising that the prerequisite is citizenship, in its fullest meaning, with the right to an electoral vote as perhaps the least important aspect of it. In the four freedoms, the privileges of the citizen, the rights to be secured, by the common acceptance and support of the rule of law and of order, and of a sense of civic responsibility. Representative government, functioning efficiently, is more than a voting machine, it is an assertion of local feeling, and therefore, ideally, government by the governed. But the years are jealous of their rights and even in this atomic age there is no short cut to the creation of the necessary conditions. China's national awakening will undoubtedly facilitate their development, but there will be needed a long period of education, and perhaps many discouragements, before government through an enlightened public opinion can be conducted in China on a national scale.

LEIGHTON HILL ROBBERY

At about 4.30 p.m. yesterday four men, three of them armed with revolvers, entered No. 8, Leighton Hill Road, second floor, and stole \$1,800. The robbers were all young men.

The programme for Sunday at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon (Tot H) at 8 p.m. will include: Prelude to "Tristan and Isolde" (Wagner); "L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2" (Bizet); Concerto for Violin & Orchestra (Brahms); New apparatus for reproduction has been procured.

Three months' simple imprisonment was imposed on Lo Kai, widow, by Mr. W. H. Latimer for possession of eight table of gambling without a permit. R. O. Phillips said the victim was found in a room in a basket carried by accused at the K.C.B. Station.

RICHEST AREA IN SOUTH CHINA TO BE DEVELOPED

Possession Of Arms

Li Chien-chung, charged with unlawful possession of arms and six rounds of ammunition, was found guilty by Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday and sentenced to two years' hard labour. Defendant was arrested by Detective Wong Tak at Shek Kip Mei Village on Dec. 21, 1944. Wong said he was walking towards Sham Shui Po and past through men approaching. When told to stop and be searched, the man drew a revolver. He was arrested but the other two escaped.

For possession of a Mauser pistol, loaded with six rounds in the magazine and one round in the breach, and another 24 rounds without a permit, Leung Wah was sentenced to 18 months' hard labour. Detective Inspector Bruns stated accused was arrested by a Revenue Officer at the Yau Ma Tei Railway Station on Feb. 5. The arms and ammunition were found in a basket he was carrying.

GOLD JUMPS

Gold jumped 25 points yesterday. Opening at 563 per ounce, it advanced to 588, closing at 588. The price of gold in Hong Kong is now at \$588. The price of gold in Hong Kong is now at \$588. The price of gold in Hong Kong is now at \$588.

Chinese national currency had a quiet day. Spot transactions opened at HK\$1.80 to C\$1.00 and closed at \$1.82. Futures opened at \$4.28 and closed at \$4.31. British Sterling and Australian pounds maintained the previous day's level of \$1.20 and \$1.4 respectively. U.S. dollars were also unchanged at \$4.40.

NO PERMIT

The junk master of Motor Junk No. 762, Mr. Yee, was summoned before Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday for carrying 14 passengers without a permit. He was found guilty and fined \$50.

Inspector Benington stated that on Feb. 7, A/B Whitehead intercepted defendant's junk near Green Island and found 28 persons on board. Fourteen of them were members of the crew. On defendant's licence, marked in red, was "no passengers permitted."

Accused told the Court that the men were not passengers but were only looking after the cargo.

TENANCY CASE

On the ground that her tenant was not a recognised tenant and had not paid rent since the re-occupation, Mrs. B. Hamill successfully applied for the eviction of Cheng Kit-wan from the second floor of No. 62 Russell Street.

The application was granted by a Tenancy Tribunal comprising Messrs. George She, P. Xavier and Chan Lu-nin.

The opponent claimed that he took over the premises from the former tenant, a friend of his. He had offered rent to the owner who refused to accept.

STALL FORTUNE

A 22-year-old stall fook, Lai Pak-wo, was sentenced to two months' hard labour by Mr. C. Y. Kwan at the Summary Military Court yesterday for stealing \$1,275 HK\$ and \$3,600 C.N.C. from a fruit stall at the Kowloon Theatre, Queen's Road West, on Wednesday.

At about 1 a.m. on Wednesday, accused forced open the drawer of the stall and stole the money. The Police were informed and accused was arrested on information.

Inspector F. Nolan prosecuted.

PLANT OPERATOR DISCHARGED

Ho Kwong, plant operator of Kai Tak Aerodrome, residing at No. 20, Canal Road, third floor, was discharged by Mr. C. Y. Kwan at the Summary Military Court yesterday when the prosecution offered no evidence.

He was charged with making a speech tending to incite persons to interfere with maintenance of law and good order at Queen's Road Central near the Queen's Theatre on Jan. 11.

Mr. Alfred K. Hon appeared for the defence.

HIGHLAND DANCES

A new feature for the benefit of Service men and women and for any others interested will commence to-night in St. John's Hall, Garden Road at 8 p.m. when a Scottish Country Dancing class will be held.

This will be continued every Saturday and is open to all who would like to learn the fine traditional Highland dances of Scotland.

HAINAN ISLAND, SAID TO CONTAIN THE RICHEST MINERAL DEPOSITS IN SOUTH CHINA, IS AGAIN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION, FOLLOWING THE RECENT VISIT PAID TO IT BY DR. T. V. SOONG. DEVELOPMENT OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES IS BELIEVED TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION FOR SOUTH CHINA.

Communication difficulties and lack of shipping are responsible for the island still remaining in virtual isolation five months after the termination of the war. Little is known of what has been going on, and of what prevailing conditions are.

Some insight is, however, provided by the information provided by the Chinese Government delegates, sent to the island in November to take over land and sea transport and mining and industrial undertakings from the Japanese. These delegates have now returned to Canton via Hong Kong.

NEW ROAD

Mr. Lai Chien-chung, in charge of land transport, said that the Japanese, during the occupation, laid out an extensive network of communications round the island. These have been left in neglect since the surrender, a state of affairs which has led to a state of disrepair. This work is now being put in hand.

Greatest handicap is the lack of motor transport. At present there are only about 100 vehicles in service, which is sadly inadequate. Though they had taken over from the Japanese more than 1,100 motor vehicles, the majority were either badly damaged or unserviceable. The repair stations that they have managed to get functioning lack spare parts and accessories.

Sea transport is little better, and Mr. Pun Tsok-leung of the Ministry of Communications, who added that vessels taken over from the Japanese averaged 31, ranging from 600 tons to 10,000 tons, all commercial vessels, but most of them damaged and in need of extensive repairs before they can be put into commission.

VESSELS TAKEN OVER. Vessels taken over have been handed to the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co., who propose to operate four routes, viz. (1) Hoihow to Canton via Hong Kong and Macao; (2) Hoihow to Kowloon; (3) Hoihow to Haiphong; and (4) coastal trade round the island.

However, the whole scheme is still in the blue-print stage. One or two runs have been made on routes 2 and 3, but regular service depends upon getting vessels into shape.

There are 59 vessels sunk off the coast. Of these, 50 are small craft of about 100 tons, while 9 are vessels of over 1,000 tons. So far it is not decided whether any of these vessels can be salvaged.

Mr. Sin Wing-shi of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the account of industrial and mining developments, said great strides had been made in iron mining, and it must be conceded that the Japanese made considerable progress during their occupation of the island.

MINE DEVELOPMENTS. The aim of the Japanese was primarily to develop the island for strategic use, and they exploited its resources for their own war needs, hence they spared no effort in developing the mines. Batch after batch of slave labourers were brought in, many of them to replace those who had perished from sickness and ill-treatment. It is impossible to tell exactly how many people lost their lives in the course of bringing the mines and other projects on the island to their present stage of development.

The largest iron mine operated by the Japanese was at Shek Luk, which has a daily output of 3,000 tons, and employs over 17,000 labourers. Amongst its equipment is a 6,000 h.p. generator, and the mine is served by rail tracks to a wharf, put up during the occupation, capable of berthing two large ocean-going vessels.

It is said that the output has already exceeded a million tons, all shipped to Japan, but the potentialities are unlimited.

Among other facilities put up by the Japanese here is a hospital with 700 beds. Next in importance is the Tin Tuk San Iron Mine which has a daily output of 3,000 tons, and employs 15,000 labourers. Its ore yield is high, said to be 65 percent, but it is believed to have been two-thirds worked out.

EQUIPMENT IN FACT. There is also a crystal mine at Yuen Koi Leung. The crystal is of high grade, fully equal to the mined in Brazil.

Work on the mines stopped in 1943. Generally speaking, all the equipment and installations are intact, and with slight overhaul work can be resumed.

Electric power of the island was developed by the Japanese. At Hoihow 6.25 m.v. and at Yu Lam Port, one of 900 h.p.

Owing to lack of shipping facilities, trade is essentially a closed-door affair; and the islanders have been able to produce their own food, in leather, paper, ice, canned food-stuffs, sugar, wine and other necessities of everyday life.

Hoihow remains the commercial centre of the island as well as its principal port. Merchants yearn for shipping, without which the island can never prosper. Hoihow is generally one of disappointment at the slow pace of rehabilitation.

The Reinstatement Committee to day was unable to decide whether the applicant was technically in or out of the Army.

In The Army Or Not?

Edinburgh, Feb. 8. The Reinstatement Committee to day was unable to decide whether the applicant was technically in or out of the Army. William P. Grant of Philip-ton-Ternace, Boness, said that when he applied for reinstatement as a motor driver with the Boness Co-operative Society, he was offered work as a driver of a horse van. He did not like horses.

The Committee had already agreed to order his reinstatement when the Manager of the Society, Mr. J. Bonnet, pointed out that Grant had applied for his former work for four months only as he was temporarily released from the Army on compassionate grounds and not on demobilisation. The Committee adjourned the case pending investigation of his standing under the Reinstatement Act.

Readers' Letters

A WARNING

Sir—I do not wish to introduce any unsavoury correspondence into your pages, but I feel it my duty to issue a warning to your readers. It has come to my ears that certain undesirable gentlemen, some of whom have recently been writing to your newspaper, are planning to carry out a dishonest trick at the Happy Valley races on Sunday, by running a horse under a false name.

The horse in question is the infamous Nostalgia, who was fourth in the Derby of 1932. It will be remembered that he figured in a regrettable incident when he won the Cambridgehire in the same year under the name of Press on a horse which had never been placed and so started at 66 to 1. Nostalgia later showed considerable ability over the jumps, and was once leading in the Grand National when with typical recklessness he refused at the last fence.

I have found to my surprise that he has now been exported here and is at present being stabled in Kowloon. I hear that he has been entered in three different races on Sunday under three different names. However I once owned the old horse myself and I shall recognize him under any disguise. Should I see an attempt being made on Sunday to carry out this despicable deceit, I shall immediately inform the perpetrators of the Stewards.

Yours, in all sincerity,

JAN. P. LITTLE

NO BRITISH PURDAH

Sir—"Jimmy's" article "Babies not Husbands" is full of interest and controversial possibilities. Your object in printing it is, I presume, among others, as a final purge of the Crosby, Chan, Sinal, O.V.L. & Co. correspondence, and the re-direction of the public mind and interest. You could hardly have found an article more suited to the task.

I think most people will agree with "Jimmy" up to the point where he starts talking about "legitimising polygamy." The article from that point onwards betrays a lack of knowledge, and understanding of the average British woman with whom I assume he is mainly concerned, so appalling that the most charitable assumption is that it was written with his tongue in his cheek and both eyes on its controversial value. To the comparisons with the harem and the Arab world I doubt if our ladies will take kindly.

With regard to life in the harem, "Jimmy's" frank avowal of ignorance seems rather superfluous. I profess no personal knowledge in this respect but I believe it is generally agreed that the sole duties of the inmates of these institutions are to lie draped around on rich cushions, eat and drink sweetmeats, and to have their sex appeal keyed right up to concert pitch against the possibility of an occasional summons from their lord and master.

To support such a tedious and boring existence their minds must be practically non-existent, and what there is of them trained for one thing only. That those with minds and wills of their own will not willingly submit to such conditions is proved by the presence of sundry discontented gentlemen, who act as guards to these shapely damsels and with whom certain precautions have been taken. But even eunuchs have their weaknesses and there is many a personable local lad who has made good at the Sultan's expense.

It is not (even if printable) would be to shatter too rudely Jimmy's ill-fated ignorance and bring a hot blush to many a damsel's cheek. Moreover, even in the harem there is no equality: the ruling favourite rules the most. It does not think it necessary to discuss the sort of treatment one woman is not to receive from another under such circumstances. Furthermore when the gentleman has the sex drive, after the harem girl, when the figure comes a shade less, such like

Over to somebody else.

ARR.

TRAGEDY OF WAR

Sir—I shall be much obliged if you will be so good as to publish this letter in the correspondence columns of your valuable paper. I am a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and have been serving the Corps for nearly twenty years including the Pacific War.

In 1937, I was a recipient of a Long Service Medal from His Excellency the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott during the Annual Ambulance Inspection.

At the outbreak of hostilities, I was mobilised by St. John and was attached to a huge group of fighting forces which included detachments from the Regular Army, Volunteers, etc. (This cost toll to the enemy on 18/12/41 and several hundred were taken prisoner). Whilst on duty, I was suddenly taken ill and was conveyed to the Royal General Hospital, Osh Hospital for treatment. After staying here for a couple of days,

Magistrate's Remarks On Shooting Case

"THIS COURT CONSIDERS THE TIME RIFE FOR INCREASING SENTENCES FOR OFFENCES OF THIS NATURE," REMARKED MR. LEO D'ALMADA, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL MILITARY COURT, YESTERDAY IN IMPOSING SENTENCE OF 10 YEARS' HARD LABOUR ON CHAN CHEUNG, ONE OF AN ARMED GANG FOUND GUILTY OF SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO DO GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM OR TO RESIST ARREST BY THE POLICE.

Chan was ordered to receive 12 strokes of the cane. When hearing was resumed yesterday the fifth accused, Chan Wan-sung, was discharged on both counts preferred against him as the Court told he had no case to answer following the recall of Det. Sub-Insps. J. K. Sykes.

The four other accused, Chan Chun, Lam Kwong, Tang Tarn and Chan Wan-sung, were each sentenced to five years' hard labour on the first count of unlawful possession of two revolvers and 18 rounds of ammunition at No. 304 Hoi Tan Street, second floor, on Dec. 23.

Members of the Court were Mr. Leo d'Almada, Capt. L. E. Bigg and Capt. P. W. Egerton. Mr. F. X. d'Almada, assisted by Sub-Insps. Sykes, prosecuted. After the Court had formally discharged Chan Wan-sung the prosecution was asked what evidence the prosecution had adduced on the charge of shooting with intent. There was no evidence, the president pointed out.

I was compelled to evacuate, due to the heavy shelling concentrated on this area. While leaving, I was fortunate to meet one of the doctors who gave me a lift to a safety zone. I took shelter in a relative's house until the surrender of Hong Kong on 25/12/41. A few days later, I made my way home through the hills. On my arrival, I found to my surprise that my home had been occupied by the Japs and all the lady folks and children were driven out at the point of bayonet.

They were allowed to carry with them a large blanket, a few pillows plus a handful of other things. On the return trip, my people were not allowed to remove anything. When the Japs left, my home was at the mercy of looters. Clothing, household goods, etc., were stolen.

On our returning home, my wife and I were living in a bed for nearly three months without proper medical attention. At one time, we were in a very serious condition but luckily we managed to pass through this crisis. During this period, sometime in February, 1942, my baby son, about 2 months old, died of malnutrition followed by the death of my grandmother two days later. In June, 1942, my young daughter, age 5 was accidentally drowned in a swimming pool which had only one foot of water.

After resigning my old office for a few months, I resigned and left for Macao on 19/11/42 where I took refuge under the support of the British Consul. During my 2½ years' sojourn in Macao, I could not make ends meet, due partly to illness and also due to the high cost of living. I had to depend on loans from friends occasionally to carry on.

Whatever I had, had gone to the pawnshop during this difficult time. Of course, these things were never redeemed. I lost my baby girl and my beloved mother in Macao. My mother died on 22/7/45 after a long illness.

I was repatriated back to the Colony at the end of September, 1945 and rejoined my old office. As an Essential Service Worker and have been connected with the office for nearly fifteen years. Shortly after my arrival, I went to interview the officer-in-charge of the Australian Red Cross and appeal for some wear-in apparel, etc. I was given a shirt, a pair of slacks and a pair of boots. Later, when the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John took over the work, I made several unsuccessful attempts to obtain some winter wearing apparel, etc., from them. I was informed that they have strict orders only to issue clothing, etc., to P.O.W.s and Ex-Internees. As far as the St. John members are concerned, they have to wait fresh instructions from home. Only a few days ago, I made another appeal and was told that there was no clothing. Why can't they give temporarily relief on the merits of my case? Don't I deserve a little consideration in view of the above circumstances? I must voice my strong protest to the authorities for the treatment given me.

"TRAGEDY OF WAR". ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS. Several replies have been received to Blondy's dart enquiry and all agree that the correct answer depends upon the "school". In other words, the gentlemen arguing were both right and both wrong.—Ed.

to show who fired the shot except that of a police officer who said it was either second or sixth accused.

SERIOUS OFFENCE. After some deliberation, the Court held that four of the accused had no case to answer on this charge but in the case of the sixth (Chan Cheung) the Court held there was evidence against him.

Chan Cheung was also sentenced to five years' hard labour on the possession count, the sentences to run concurrently. Passing sentence Mr. Leo d'Almada said that shortly after the reoccupation of the Colony a proclamation was published calling all persons to turn in arms at police stations, and penalties for such possession were also made known.

"The offence received ample publicity in the press of the Colony by reason of the numerous cases and convictions recorded in this Court. Comparatively heavy sentences passed in the last few months do not seem to have had the desired effect.

"At a time when the police are short-handed and there are many lawless elements in the Colony, an offence such as this is very serious. This Court considers the time ripe for increasing sentences for offences of this nature."

Navy-R.A.F. Quiz

To-night's "Quiz" Contest over Z.B.W. will be between teams from the R.A.F. Officers' Mess, Homington, and H.M.S. "Reaper". The contest will be staged at 8.15 p.m. to allow for a relay from the ENSA Star Theatre, Kowloon, from approximately 7.45 to 8.10 p.m. In this relay, the guest artists appearing with Art Carneiro's Orchestra will be heard. They are Doris Ingham (Soprano) and Rosalind Bentley (Pianoforte). The relay will also include items by Art Carneiro himself and some other members of his band.

The teams for the "Quiz" are as follows: R.A.F. Officers' Mess, Homington; Wing Commander Connolly, S/Lt. Woodton, P/Lt. Ganthonny and F/O Mullens. H.M.S. "Reaper": R.R.O. K. Jacques, P.O. D. Parkin, A/M J. Leygett and A/B M. J. Thomas.

Seamen Guilty

An Indian seaman, Amad Shakh Omar of R.F.A. Wave King, was found guilty by Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday of unlawful possession of 95 pounds of sugar. A fine of \$50 was imposed and the sugar restored to the ship.

Thomas Johnston, Purser of the Wave King, testified that one of the crew told him that accused had some sugar hidden in his cabin. He found a sack of sugar in accused's wardrobe. It was defendant's duty to report the sugar to the officer-in-charge. The sugar was identified as the type used on board.

Accused said he discovered the sugar in his cabin when he moved in. He denied stealing it.

Inspector Medley was in charge of the prosecution.

SECOND CONVICTION

Kwong Shui-koung, unemployed, was charged before Mr. C. Y. Kwan at the Summary Military Court yesterday with breaking into No. 40, Tung Lo Wan Road, and stealing 22 pieces of clothing.

C.S.I. Chan of Bay View told the Court that accused was arrested by a Chinese detective at the tramway terminus at Causeway Bay. Accused stole the articles by forcing open the front door during the absence of complainant.

Accused, who had a previous conviction, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

CLASSICAL RECITAL

The main item in to-morrow's Concert of Gramophone music at the Catholic Centre, King's Building, will be the violin Concerto in G Minor by Max Bruch, played by Yehudi Menuhin and The London Symphony Orchestra. There will also be items by Bach, Mozart (The Piano Sonata in A Minor), Beethoven (Violin Concerto), and Verdi.

The Concert begins at 8.30 and admission is free to all.

CHINA'S COLOSSAL TASK

30 Years Needed For Rehabilitation

Merit In Yamashita Appeal?

San Francisco, Feb. 8. The San Francisco "Chronicle," in an editorial, said yesterday that more important even than to punish Japanese war criminals is to make sure that it is done in so completely a right fashion that there can never be any future compunction about it.

The paper said it was natural enough for General MacArthur's staff "to bridle at the suggestion of the two dissenting Supreme Court Justices that Yamashita's counsel was not given enough time to prepare a proper defence."

But it added that General MacArthur's staff will do well to observe any hint that may help them avert the inevitable trial of the case they have got to try.

Army lawyers should reflect there must have been some schism of merit in Yamashita's appeal or two learned justices would not have dissented, Associated Press.

Ukraine's Charge Against Britain

LONDON, FEB. 8. THE SOVIET UKRAINIAN DELEGATE YESTERDAY ASKED THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY TO CREATE A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE "ON THE SPOT" THE SITUATION IN INDONESIA WHERE UKRAINE CHARGED THAT BRITISH TROOPS WERE "USED FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF A NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE."

Appeal By Homma

Washington, Feb. 8. An appeal by Lieut.-General Homma for the United States Supreme Court to order a halt in his war crimes trial by the American military tribunal in Manila was received on Thursday by the Court.

The appeal petitions the Court to take the Homma case out of military hands and asks the high court to review the refusal of the Philippines Supreme Court to grant the general a writ of habeas corpus.

The Homma appeal reached the court just three days after it refused by a six to two decision to interfere with a military tribunal's death sentence on Lieut.-General Yamashita. The Homma appeal apparently was prepared while the Yamashita case still was under advisement by the Supreme Court. It reached the court by air mail.

The opinion of observers is that the decision in the Yamashita case, in which the legal competency and jurisdiction of military tribunals were upheld, virtually eliminated any chance of success in the Homma appeal. Homma is on trial for atrocities committed by the soldiers of his command in the Japanese conquest of the Philippines. Yamashita was convicted for crimes committed by his troops during American reconquest of Luzon in 1945.—Associated Press.

WANTS TO STAY AT HOME

Tokyo, Feb. 8. General Sadamu Sanemura, former War Minister, has submitted a formal request to the Allied Headquarters for house arrest instead of imprisonment as an international war criminal suspect on the grounds of ill health, authoritative sources said.

The arrest was ordered yesterday on international charges. Sanemura, who has been War Minister in both the occupation Cabinet, has been also accused by American officers as the man who gave the final death order for the executed Doolittle fliers.

He is asking to remain at home because, he said, he is suffering from periodic asthma attacks requiring injections and also other physical ailments which would endanger his health if confined in Supreme prison.—Associated Press.

Rural Areas Worst Hit

SHANGHAI, FEB. 7. THAT CHINA REQUIRES AT LEAST 30 YEARS OF PEACE TO COMPLETE HER COLOSSAL TASK OF REHABILITATING AND RECONSTRUCTING THE COUNTRY IS THE OPINION OF GENERAL SHUEH YEH, WORLD-FAMOUS FOR HIS DEFENCE OF CHANGSHA—STRATEGIC CAPITAL OF HUNAN—who is now visiting SHANGHAI. HE ESPECIALLY ADVOCATED THAT THE REHABILITATION OF RURAL AREAS BE GIVEN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN CHINA'S RELIEF PROGRAMME.

Attention, he said, should be devoted first to farming areas in North China, and then those along the Yangtze Valley. With China's farmers and peasants put back on their feet, production would increase enormously, and "when the Chinese people have plenty of food and clothing the whole nation will be benefited immensely."

General Shueh urged the introduction of modern agricultural equipment in the rehabilitation of the rural areas. He said Chinese farmers should be taught the advantages of scientific methods

over their own obsolete ways of farming.

In this connection he believed that modern agricultural machinery was more suitable to North China, because the fields there were adapted to the planting of wheat, cotton and other crops of more or less dry soil.

The general stated that rural reconstruction was urgent because the majority of the Chinese people were, in one way or another, connected with farming.

CO-OP SOCIETIES

This large part of the nation's 400,000,000, he said, should be given an opportunity to resume their occupation in peace and without interference. They should be gradually trained to apply new and more effective methods and implements. Co-operative societies should be established in all rural districts to assist farmers in the purchase of their daily necessities and sale of their produce.

General Shueh added that China was, in the main, an agricultural country, and yet she was not self-sufficient in rice, flour and other foodstuffs. She also required foreign cotton and woolen textiles.

Evidently, he continued, something was wrong with China's agriculture. He thought the chief trouble lay in the insecurity of the rural districts, and advocated drastic measures to wipe out banditry that farmers and peasants could follow their occupation in peace.

General Shueh added that both U.N.R.R.A. and C.N.R.R.A. were in a position to contribute greatly to the revival of China's agriculture by improving the living and working conditions in rural areas, and by teaching the use of scientific farming methods.—Reuter.

Soviet Interest In Middle East

London, Feb. 8. A Moscow broadcast today quoting the magazine "New Times" declared that the war has brought "the changes necessary for Arab countries to obtain national sovereignty" while in Soviet Armenia a high official said the Armenians wanted "the return of Soviet Armenia land forcibly occupied by Turkey."

The two statements bearing on the troubled Middle East followed a declaration in Tiflis by Marshal J. P. Beria that difficulties which Soviet foreign policy had encountered in the international arena must not be forgotten.

Beria, in his first public speech since resigning as Commissar of Internal Affairs to become Vice-Chairman in the Council of People's Commissars, added that Russian foreign policy was directed toward making another aggressive war impossible.

Turkey obtained about half Caucasian Armenia in a border dispute in 1921.

The broadcast, quoting the magazine, warned of the tense situation developing in the Middle East.—Associated Press.

Agreement On Korea

Seoul, Feb. 7. The United States and Russian representatives today announced an agreement on the framework for a joint provisional government.

However, the conference ended its three weeks' discussion without any official disclosure of detailed plans for giving Korea political freedom.

It was called to carry out the terms of the Moscow Conference setting up a five-year trusteeship. The joint-communiqué said representatives of the Soviet and American commands in Korea had agreed to set up a ten-member commission with Seoul as its permanent seat. It said the commission will consult with the democratic political parties and social organizations in all parts of Korea.

The communiqué did not state whether the present black-out between the two occupation zones would be lifted.—Associated Press.

A New Atmosphere At U.N.O.

London, Feb. 8. The Ukrainian delegate to the United Nations Organisation, Mr. Manuisky, protested to-day against conditions in Indonesia and asked the Security Council for "the necessary measures to put an end to this situation."

Manuisky said he did not ask the withdrawal of British troops and recognised that the presence of Allied troops in some areas might be desirable for emergency reasons. He proposed creation of a commission to investigate on the spot and for the establishment of peace in the area which has been disturbed by fighting since the Japanese surrender six months ago.

British Foreign Minister Bevin replied quickly for the most part and the session, even at its warmest points when allegations were made and answered, lacked the feeling of tension which characterised many of the heated discussions in the Russo-British dispute over the Greek situation earlier in the week.

Mr. Bevin said he was not certain "what I have to answer" because, since Manuisky did not ask the withdrawal of British troops, there was no charge that the presence of British troops was a menace to peace.—Associated Press.

Dramatic Testimony On "Winds" Message

WASHINGTON, FEB. 8. CAPTAIN A. D. KRAMER YESTERDAY STATED HE SAW ONLY ONE "APPARENT" JAPANESE "WINDS" CODE MESSAGE BEFORE THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK AND IT IMPLIED ONLY A JAPANESE BREAK WITH ENGLAND.

In a dramatic moment in the hearings by the Senate-House Committee investigating the Dec. 7th attack, Kramer disputed point by point the testimony made earlier by Captain L. F. Safford that a message intercepted in Japan's "winds" code gave Washington 72 hours advance notice that Japan intended war.

Kramer said it was not true as Safford testified that such message was intercepted on Dec. 4 and that Kramer wrote on it the translation: "War with the United States, war with England, peace with Russia."

There was an "apparent" winds message on Dec. 5, Kramer said, but it involved only Japanese-British relations.

Kramer took the witness chair in mid-afternoon following Safford who left to loud applause from the crowd filling the big hearing room after 4-1/2 days' testimony that the "winds" message meant war with the United States and that Kramer could substantiate his testimony.—Associated Press.

Support For Osmena

Manila, Feb. 7. Two Liberal-Leftist Parties today formally approved a coalition with President Sereio Osmena's wing of the Nacionalista Party, opposing the group dominated by the rival Presidential candidate Manuel Roxas.

The Democratic Alliance and the Popular Front each placed two candidates in a united front for Senatorial posts and followers of Osmena have named twelve candidates. All groups are to support Osmena in the April elections.

The Philippine Youth Party has also agreed to swing its support to Osmena. The united front platform includes agrarian reforms and independence as scheduled and prompt removal of collaborationists from places of government or economic influence.—Associated Press.

BRITISH IMPORTS TO BE LIMITED

London, Feb. 8. Possible action limiting British imports from American firms in order to conserve available dollars for foreign purchases was suggested yesterday in official circles.—Associated Press.

New Taxes For France

PARIS, FEB. 8. PLANS FOR NEW TAXES OF MORE THAN 50,000,000,000 FRANCES TO HELP SOLVE FRANCE'S "DESPERATE" FINANCIAL PLIGHT WERE MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY BY THE FINANCE MINISTER, MR. ANDRE PHILIP.

In giving the Constituent Assembly's finance commission details of his revenue raising measures, Mr. Philip disclosed that a tentative agreement between President Felix Gouin and high ranking military leaders on the controversial subject of military credits had been reached, providing that army expenditures will not exceed 18,000,000,000 francs monthly.

Philip's tax programme envisages: 1,800,000,000 from gasoline increases; 1,000,000,000 from wine; 900,000,000 from alcohol; 7,000,000,000 from increased railway fares; 8,000,000,000 from tobacco; 6,000,000,000 from various imports; 17,000,000,000 from capital taxes; 3,000,000,000 from stock profits; 200,000,000 from stock exchange operations and 6,000,000,000 from a production tax.

Philip faced with a 320,000,000,000 francs 1946 budget deficit, also proposed ending the State economic subsidies, notably for coal production, enabling a saving of 23,000,000,000 francs.—Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 7. The State Department announced yesterday an interim agreement with Belgium granting landing rights in Brussels and New York to authorized airlines of each country. Under the pact, Pan American Airways will be able to use Brussels as an intermediate station on its route to India.—Associated Press.

Student Exchange

Yenan, Feb. 8. Roland Elliott, executive secretary of World Student Relief declared after a one-day visit to educational and relief organizations here that he would recommend a freer exchange of students between Nationalist and Communist China.

Saying he was "greatly impressed" with the activities of students in the Yenan area, he added that he hoped American scholars and educators could eventually enter the Red regions for a thorough examination of the students' life and curriculum as well as the social programme in this remote area.

He came here he said with the consent of the National Government to determine whether relief allotments for students should be increased. He will recommend a substantial enlargement of the help the World Organization is extending to the Communists, he said.

After conferring with student leaders he announced that student relief committees would be set up in Yenan and throughout the liberated areas. His visit here was part of a tour throughout most of the Far East.—Associated Press.

SINO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

Honolulu, Feb. 7. Dr. Hollington Tong, advisor to the Chinese Foreign Office, said in an interview here yesterday that Madame Chiang Kai-shek's recent mission to Manchuria was helpful in creating Chinese-Russian goodwill.

He praised the actions of Gen. George C. Marshall, special U.S. envoy to China, and said the entire country is ready to tackle problems of relief, stabilization and reconstruction. Dr. Tong will remain several days to visit with W. H. Donald, long-time special aide to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.—Associated Press.

Peiping, Feb. 7. U.S. Brig.-Gen. Louis Jones, Marine Commander in the Peiping area, announced the repatriation of the first Koreans from the area will begin this week. He estimated 60,000 to 70,000 Koreans in the Peiping-Tientsin region, but said not all of them will be returned to Korea.—Associated Press.

NAAFI

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"MUSIC IN THE AIR"

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DORIS INGHAM & ROSALIND BENTLEY (GUEST ARTISTES)

Weekdays At 7.30 P.M.

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BY PUBLIC DEMAND

NIGHTLY AT 7.30 P.M. COMMENCING 11TH FEB.

In Aid of H.E. The Commandant-in-Chief's Hong Kong Distress Fund

MILITARY RACE MEETING

AT

Happy Valley, Race Course

Hong Kong

ON

SUNDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1946

First Saddling Fell at 1.30 P.M.

First Race Starts At 2.00 P.M.

ANY HAPPY VALLEY TRAM OR BUS WILL ENOUGH THE RACE COURSE

Pari-Mutuel Betting available at The Course in the usual manner. Cash Sweep through Tickets may be obtained at the Office of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Exchange Building, first floor, at a cost of \$10.00

ADMISSION: Members' Stand \$3.00 (including Tax)

Public Stand \$1.00 (including Tax)

Applications for private boxes should be made to the Clerk of the Course—Major J. L. Litchie (Telephone No. 84141)

J. H. GIBSON, M.C., R.A.

Lt. Col. (Steward)

A.A. & Q.M.G. H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong.

REMEMBER—

FRANCIS WU'S STUDIO

FOR FINE PHOTOGRAPH

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Operator E. & A. M.V. "GHANDA" About middle of February

Accepting cargo and passengers.

SAILING TO SHANGHAI

C. N. Co. S.S. "TSINAN" Noon 9th Feb.

SAILING TO SWATOW

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A Reward of HONGKONG DOLLAR ONE THOUSAND will be paid to anyone giving information leading to the recovery of a LARGE SAFE containing this Company's Account Record.

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Our Branch Office has opened temporary premises at Messrs Blair & Co., at French Bank Building, 2nd floor, and we shall be obliged if all prospective clients will communicate enquiries to the address during the present emergency period where they will be promptly handled and communicated to our executive who is now proceeding to London to ascertain full details and specifications with prices of latest models on all lines of our products:—

Vehicles—Petrol/Diesel

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of all description.

Our Hong Kong & China Office is a Direct Branch of:—

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REPATRIATION NOTICE

No 19

HMS "REAPER" is expected to leave for the UNITED KINGDOM on or about the 12th February, 1946.

Date and time of embarkation will be published when they are known.

The following should stand by:—

Mr. G. P. Murphy
Mr. F. Nolan
Mr. J. Demsey
Mr. J. Giddard
Mr. H. Dingdale
Mr. T. J. Byrne
Mr. B. J. Baker
Mr. P. Appleyard
Mr. S. I. Doughty
Mr. J. A. Watson
Mr. G. W. C. Graig
Mr. G. H. Stewart
Mr. C. E. Davis
Mr. E. Beeching
Mr. P. H. Klimanek
Mr. G. Genschoff
Rev. G. Connoni
Rev. L. Pulit
Rev. A. Cometti
Rev. Rosello
Rev. W. Haughey
Rev. D. O'Connell
Mr. G. Clarke
Mr. J. J. Whyte & Mesker.

H.K.Y.D.O.

Pte H. J. Woolley and
RMS F. C. Jones.

No accommodation is available for lady passengers by this ship.

REPATRIATION OFFICE.
8th February, 1946.

U.N.O. Veto Should Be Abolished

Lansing, Michigan, Feb. 8. Harold Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota, frequently mentioned as a Republican candidate for the Presidency, today declared the U.N.O. gradually should eliminate the single power veto allowed to major nations in the U.N.O. Security Council.

Stassen was a member of the United States delegation to the San Francisco Conference which drafted the U.N.O. Charter. In a Michigan State College address Stassen asserted that under the exact terms of the Charter, Russia and Britain should not have been allowed a veto in the Security Council debates on the question of the status of Greece and Iran. Those two nations were "interested parties to the dispute and should have stepped aside," he said.

Answering questions from the audience, Stassen said the United States should take jurisdiction over all Japanese mandated islands in the Pacific Ocean under U.N.O. trusteeship "reporting to the peoples of the world" the advancement of native peoples.—Associated Press.

Families Of G.I.'S

Washington, Feb. 7. Legislation removing any discrimination between enlisted men and officers as to government paid transportation of their families to overseas stations was introduced in both Houses of Congress yesterday.

The Bill, introduced by Senator Lucas, Democrat of Illinois, also instructs the War and Navy Departments to make a survey of housing, food and medical supplies available in foreign areas.

The House measure was introduced by Representative Johnson, Democrat of Oklahoma, who stipulated that specific appropriations should be required to finance the trips.—Associated Press.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB

Members are requested to attend a Meeting to be held at the club-house on Sunday, the 10th inst., at 4 p.m. to discuss the re-opening of the Club.

IZRA ABRAHAM,
President, K.C.C.

NOTICE

We have perused documents in the possession of Mr. K. Y. Lee (Lee Kai Yan). They show that, on the 14th January, 1946 Mr Lee on his own accord tendered resignation, and on the 16th the Sze On & Company accepted the resignation with expressions of gratitude. The wording of the advertisement inserted by the said Company on 25th and 26th January was somewhat "unfortunate, and we are instructed to insert this advertisement to inform the public of the true position.

P. H. SIN & CO.
Solicitors for K. Y. Lee
1st February, 1946.

Yenan On The Downgrade

(By John Roderick).

YEN, FEB. 8

THIS CHINESE COMMUNIST CAPITAL WHICH DURING THE WAR YEARS GREW IN SIZE FROM 20,000 TO 60,000 PEOPLE IS ON THE DOWNGRADE AGAIN.

THE EXODUS FROM THE CAVE CITY HAS BEEN CONSTANT SINCE THE END OF THE WAR WITH JAPAN. LONG CARAVANS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WINDING THEIR WAY IN AND OUT OF THE LOESS VALLEYS TAKING THOUSANDS TO THE HOMES THEY QUIT YEARS AGO TO COME TO THE SAFETY OF YENAN. THERE ARE NOT MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE IN THE CITY BY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE.

Truman Hits Collaborators

Washington, Feb. 8. President Truman has vetoed a bill which would have legalized certain financial and business transactions under Japanese administration of the Philippines.

He said he disapproved of the measure because it "would give official sanction to Japanese acts in forcing the liquidation of the business of loyal Filipinos, Americans and Allies."

"I vetoed the measure after Paul V. McNutt, U.S. High Commissioner in the Philippines, had recommended disapproval because it would validate payments made in Japanese fiat money."

and deny injured parties the right to contest such payments; would benefit enemy collaborators and the subjects of Axis powers; would ratify acts inimical to the interests of the United Nations, including the government-owned Philippine National Bank; would make solvent the life insurance companies which operated in the Philippines under Japanese control.—Associated Press.

"The war's end was a boon in many ways to blockaded Yenan. A prolonged drought had reduced crop yields as much as 60 per cent and famine threatened. With its swollen wartime population, it faced tremendous shortages, perhaps even starvation. Then when the war ended the population pressure was quickly diminished, easing the tension.

Peasants in the entire northwest thwarted the famine danger because they had amassed grain and millet reserves under the Communist production programme.

In 1929, under the old economic system of landlords and tenant farmers, 2,000,000 people perished of starvation in this same area. To-day the same situation was not comfortably with the reserves on hand. No one died of hunger. The Communist land tax in kind was increased from four per cent to six or seven per cent. The peasants took it cheerfully. One recalled that 10 years ago before the land redistribution here the taxes amounted to as much as 60 per cent. The present increase was an emergency one and will drop to its normal rate this year the Communist leaders say.—Associated Press.

New Orleans cotton futures were quiet.

In the New York stock market, heavy selling of distillery shares in anticipation of President Truman's order prohibiting the use of grains for whisky sent prices down three to five points in this group.

Steel Company shares managed to gain fractionally, however, as Wall Street continued to talk of the possibility that the strike in that industry would be settled soon.

Price changes in other industrial groups were irregular although declines were slightly in the majority.—Associated Press.

PRESIDENT'S HINT ON RATIONING

Washington, Feb. 8. President Truman said yesterday he would call for a return to meat rationing in the United States if it becomes necessary to prevent ten to fifteen million people from starving to death.

Australian Policy In The Pacific

Canberra, Feb. 8. Australia's policy in the Southwest Pacific is directed toward the maintenance of regional security in that area and the mandated territories by mutual agreement with other United Nations, the External Affairs Minister, Dr. Herbert Evatt, asserted to-day.

If necessary, such agreements would be made subject to the approval of the United Nations Security Council, he said, adding that there was a likelihood of the negotiation of an agreement with the U.N.O. trusteeship council for the transfer of Australian-mandated territories to trusteeship status.

Dr. Evatt stated that there were several cases where the government would not oppose the establishment of American bases in the Southwest Pacific if Australian sovereignty is not violated.—Associated Press.

Wants Pearl Harbour Maintained

Honolulu, Feb. 8. The "Los Angeles Times" publisher, Norman Chandler, said yesterday he would like to "see Pearl Harbour maintained as a strong naval base along with Guam and a few others and to have forces scattered all over the Pacific."

Chandler and other publishers left for Guam on the second leg of their five-week tour of the Pacific. He said he favoured the maintenance of a sizeable army garrison in Hawaii and the strengthening of Hawaii beyond pre-war status.—Associated Press.

Russia In Manchuria

Chungking, Feb. 7. China is consulting Russia on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Manchuria, the Minister of Information, K. C. Wu, told newsmen to-day in reply to an insistent question.

However, Wu said, there has been no formal Soviet request for an extension of the deadline of February 1 for the completion of the withdrawal and China had made no request to Russia to delay withdrawal beyond the deadline.

He said that transportation difficulties were presumably a factor in the delay of the Russian withdrawal.—Associated Press.

U.S. Plans For Navy Of The Future

WASHINGTON, FEB. 8.

THE NAVY REVEALED TO-DAY POST-WAR PLANS FOR A FLEET OF 319 FIGHTING SHIPS READY FOR INSTANT ACTION AND READY TO LAUNCH 3,627 PLANES.

A force of 176 warships has been planned for the Pacific and 143 in the Atlantic, as well as two reserve fleets, Navy Secretary Forrestal said in his annual report to President Truman. He said the fleet plan would be effective on the completion of demobilisation next Autumn.

These post-war fleets now planned include the following for the Pacific: Nine carriers, nine escort carriers, two 45,000-ton battlecruisers, 20 cruisers, 81 destroyers, 16 destroyer-escorts and 39 submarines.

Ready reserve includes two carriers, three 35,000-ton battlecruisers, eight cruisers and 18 destroyers. Additional forces include hundreds of such other craft as transport, amphibious vessels and special purpose ships both active and in reserve.

Forrestal made no specific mention of the forthcoming atomic bomb tests on sea-power, but said the "plan is advanced at the time when due to evolution of new weapons of warfare, long-term future composition of all branches of the armed forces is particularly uncertain."—Associated Press.

ARREST ORDERED

Tokyo, Feb. 7. General MacArthur to-day ordered the arrest of a war criminal suspect of Lieutenant General Tadachiro Morimoto, Commander of the Philippines prisoners of War Camps from July 1942 to March 1944.

Morimoto was one of 18 suspected Japanese War Criminals ordered to be delivered to the Suzano prison.—Associated Press.

CHINESE PROSECUTOR

Tokyo, Feb. 8. Hsiao-chu-chun, chief prosecutor of the Nanking court, has arrived in Tokyo to assume duties as associate prosecutor in the international war criminal case. He was accompanied by his assistant, Henry Chiu.—Associated Press.

Dissidents In Sinkiang

CHUNGKING, FEB. 8.

CLASHES HAVE BEEN CONTINUING IN SINKIANG "BECAUSE OF CHUNGKING'S FAILURE TO RATIFY THE TRUCE AGREEMENT" REACHED AT THE CAPITAL OF THE DISTANT PROVINCE DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S SPECIAL ENVOY, GEN. CHANG CHI-CHUNG, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF DISSIDENTS IN SINKIANG.

The scope and character of the clashes were not indicated in reports which reached Chungking through quarters sympathetic to the dissident elements.

Expansion of the territory under their control is estimated to have placed one-third of Sinkiang in the hands of the dissidents. The total area of Sinkiang is variously estimated between 400,000 and 600,000 square miles.

Dissident groups are composed principally of elements of Turkish blood (the people of Turkish origin from Sinkiang).

Reports alleged that as a result of elections held in May, 1945, a President was elected and the areas under control of the dissidents were proclaimed the "Republic of Eastern Turkistan." The president of this "Republic" is said to be Alim Khan Tore (pronounced Torry), a 58-year-old Turk.

ARMY ISSUE

The reports said Chang Chi-chung and three delegates representing Alim Khan Tore drafted a treaty which Chiang Kai-shek refused to ratify because it enabled the dissidents to possess a private army in the form of a militia. Fresh negotiations are expected to begin within the next few weeks with a view to reaching a final settlement acceptable to both sides.

Some of the terms of the treaty were reported to have been: firstly, there should be three governors in Sinkiang—a senior one appointed by the Chinese Central Government

and two chosen by the dissidents but subject to Chungking's confirmation; secondly, the dissidents would be granted "limited autonomy" in the form of district self-government; thirdly, there would be remission of taxes for three years because of the exorbitant levies imposed by the former Chinese governor of Sinkiang; fourthly, Turki would be taught in the schools and the teaching of the Chinese language would not be compulsory.

NOTE TO CHUNGKING

The dissidents have sent a note to Chungking through the Chinese authorities at Tihwa, the capital, requesting the immediate return there of Gen. Chang Chi-chung, who, it is rumoured, would have been appointed Chief Governor of Sinkiang, if the agreement had been ratified.

There have been persistent but unconfirmable allegations that despite the Sino-Soviet treaty, in which Russian undertook not to interfere in China's Internal Affairs, the dissidents have been receiving arms from Soviet territory in exchange for furs, livestock and minerals.

Sources close to the dissidents claim that they have occupied Chingho, an oil production centre, some 200 miles southwest of Tihwa. These wells are reported to be under operation by Russians.—Associated Press.

Chungking Talks

Chungking, Feb. 8. The Kuomintang-Communist talks on the reorganisation of Communist troops are going on almost daily.

General George Marshall (President Truman's special envoy to China), an adviser to the Three-Man Committee charged with working out a formula of reorganisation, is taking most active interest in every detail and development in the work of the committee.

It is learned that General Marshall, along with the Kuomintang representative, General Chang Chi-chung, Minister of Political Affairs of the National Military Council, and the Communist negotiator, General Chou En-lai, will carry out an inspection tour of the Hsuehchow area in northern Sinkiang about the middle of this month.—Hester.

Tokyo, Feb. 8. There has been no demonstration thus far by the Japanese public of its reaction to the decision by General MacArthur that General Yamashita must hang, according to Colonel H. I. T. Cresswell, Chief of the Allied Headquarters counter-intelligence.

"In 24 hours since the MacArthur decision not a single incident has been reported," Cresswell said.—Associated Press.

BRIDGE NOTES

A very neat swindle helped South make his ambitious slam contract, shown to-day:

South, Dealer			
Both sides vulnerable			
		S. 10 9 5 3	
		H. K 10 7 3	
		D. 5	
		O. K 10 7 4	
		S. 7 6 4 2	
		H. 4	
		D. J 10 8 2	
		C. Q 8 5 2	
		S. A K Q J 8	
		H. A J 9	
		D. K 3	
		C. A J 9	

The bidding:
South 1S. West 2D. North 2S. East 3D.
1S. Pass 2S. Pass 3D. Pass

West opened the Ace of diamonds, and South nonchalantly dropped his King! West naturally assumed South had no more diamonds, and therefore was quite sure that another diamond lead would be unwise. He therefore shifted to clubs, thus giving South a free finesse. East wisely refused to play his club Queen, but the jig was up anyway.

South ruffed his low diamond in the dummy and drew four rounds of trumps. When the Ace and King of clubs failed to drop East's Queen, South had to leave the heart Queen to fulfill his contract. That was easy enough, for East had shown up with four trumps and four clubs and had raised diamonds. Since the raise must have been based on at least four diamonds, East must have started the hand with at most a singleton heart. South therefore took the Ace of hearts and finessed through West to fulfill his contract.

Note that South lost nothing by dropping the diamond King, since it would have done him no particular good to be able to discard a club or heart from the dummy. Note also that if West had not been so violently scared away from a diamond continuation, he might have led a second round of the suit. Then South would have had to guess the location of at least one Queen and perhaps both.

Yesterday you were Oswald Jacoby's partner and, with both sides vulnerable, you held:

		S. K J 9 7	
		H. Q 8	
		D. 8 4 2	
		C. Q J 6 5	

The bidding:
Jacoby 1D. Schenken 1S. You 1S. Maier 1D. Pass 1S. Pass (7)

ANSWER: Bid three no-trumps. You have quite enough strength for the acceptance of your partner's strong invitation to game; and, since your hand is well balanced, is no reason to bid the hand like a two-suiter. Score 100 per cent for three no-trumps, 30 per cent for three clubs.

QUESTION

To-day you are Merwin Maier's partner and, with both sides vulnerable, you hold:

		S. K Q J 8 3	
		H. Q	
		D. 8 4 2	
		C. J 6 5	

The bidding:
Maier 1D. Jacoby 1S. You 1S. Schenken 1D. Pass 1S. Pass (7)

What do you bid? (Answer To-morrow).

U.S. TO HELP!

Washington, Feb. 8. An Agriculture Department official said to-day he expects President Truman to issue a statement soon outlining steps to curb American consumption of wheat and wheat products to help feed hungry populations abroad. The problem was discussed at an hour's cabinet session with members, and White House aides declined to comment beyond confirming the subject matter.—Associated Press.

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SHANGHAI PREPARING FOR TRADE REVIVAL

Civvies wanted

Washington, Feb. 8. The Army signal corps has been out a "Help Wanted" sign for civilians to replace soldiers and technicians stationed in the Philippines, Japan and Korea. Workers are wanted to maintain and repair radio and telephone and electric power equipment. Associated Press.

Political Tension In Japan

Tokyo, Feb. 8. Political battle lines are being drawn further between the Communists and opposition groups. The Japanese press reported, as indication of growing unemployment and public displeasure with food and clothing shortages, that the Communists have announced a three-day convention here beginning Feb. 21, highlighting an intensive publicity drive to erase their previous demand for the removal of the Emperor. The new party policy proposes a pledge to the future status of the Emperor.

"Key" persons of the creation of an "national union front" movement, called "Right" groups in the Osaka area. "The opposition to Communists" is said to be a coalition of the Communist movement, the movement of labor and farmers, and other parties. —Associated Press.

Medieval Survivors Of The Blitz

LONDON, FEB. 8. ONLY TWO OF SOME OF LONDON'S LOVELIEST OLD BUILDINGS, THE HALLS OF THE CITY LIVERY COMPANIES, SURVIVED THE BLITZ INTACT.

HIDDEN FOR THE MOST PART IN HINDING BY WAYSIDE OF THE BUILDINGS ATTRACTED MUCH NOTICE FROM PASSERSBY. YET THE LON, ON OF THE BUILDINGS LIVED THROUGH THEM.

All traced their history back to medieval days when workers and teachers, living in the same part of the city, formed to themselves into guilds which became known as livery companies on account of the distinctive badges and crests they adopted.

Most of their halls reflect an architectural unity arising from reconstruction after the Great Fire of 1666. Those built more recently boast title to sites centuries old.

One of the 20 halls destroyed was that of the beginning of

Invited To Quit

Washington, Feb. 8. Korean circles in Washington today received pessimistic news of the establishment of a Russo-American Commission in Korea.

Yong Jueng Kim, President of the Korean Affairs Institute, which is a self-styled independent group of Koreans residing in the United States, said: "This is nothing more than a re-statement of the Moscow agreement."

Kim urged the Commission "to not Korea free within six months" falling which he said the Commission "should bow out or leave Korea to settle its own affairs."

Bene Limb, Chairman of the Korean Provisional Government, said: "Korea will never accept trusteeship" and urged that the nation be allowed to hold elections to determine Korea's national authority. —Associated Press.

MOVE TO STOP U.S. HELP

Washington, Feb. 8. Representative Hall, Democrat of New York, yesterday introduced legislation to halt temporarily exports of grain a short time after President Truman had said he would ration meat again if necessary in order to increase shipments abroad.

Hall's measure would ban export unless the Secretary of Agriculture finds sufficient grain distributed to prevent any areas in the United States from suffering shortages. —Associated Press.

SHANGHAI, FEB. 8. IN PREPARATION FOR THE DAY WHEN A NEW FOREIGN EXCHANGE IS FIXED, WHEN EXPORT BUSINESS CAN BE STARTED ON A LARGE SCALE, CHINESE MERCHANTS HERE ARE REPORTED TO BE BUSILY ACCUMULATING NATIVE PRODUCTS FOR SHIPMENT ABROAD.

THE GOODS THEY HAVE SO FAR COLLECTED FOR SUCH A PURPOSE ARE SAID TO INCLUDE OVER 700 TONS OF TUNG OIL, 30,000 PICULS (ONE PICUL EQUALS 133 LBS.) OF HOG BRISTLES, 10,000 PICULS OF RAW SILK, 200,000 PICULS OF WOOL, 300,000 PICULS OF TEA, THREE MILLION PIECES OF COW HIDES AND SHEEP AND OTHER SKINS, AND WELL OVER 30 MILLION PICULS OF SOYA BEANS.

Chinese reports state that a big scheme is under contemplation by the various Chinese Government banks to extend credit loans to Chinese merchants to assist them in the development of import and export trade.

Meanwhile, it is learned that no less than \$36,367,300,000 (approximately \$3,636,730,000) will be added to the Chinese Customs revenue as a result of the decision to raise the import tariff on a number of luxury articles, such as cigarettes, wines, sugar and beer.

The increase ranges from 20 to 50 per cent of the original tariff.

Under the revised tariff, the duty on imported rolled tobacco will be raised 40 per cent, on sugar 50 per cent, on foreign wines and beers 40 per cent, and on native wines 20 per cent as against the rate of levy previously enforced.

That export cargo is not moving as it should and could from Shanghai at present is regretted by the "Shanghai Evening Post," American daily here, in an editorial, which says the situation certainly is not due to any lack of accumulated cargo. SPECULATIVE BUBBLE.

The plain fact, it asserts, is

that exporters do not find the time propitious yet.

"They don't relish the present system whereby they must deposit their foreign-exchange proceeds of their exports with the Bank of China, to be held for an indefinite time until payment on a basis of an exchange rate not yet known. Such a situation involves a number of undesirable factors—first the temporary loss of working capital, and again the uncertainty of knowing just how much Chinese national currency will be forthcoming eventually. This latter factor creates an almost impossible situation regarding prices to be charged buyers abroad—exporters don't know whether they are offering cheap or expensive goods until they discover the exchange rate."

The paper adds that it has heard rumours that the fixing of a new official rate may have to wait until some such time as next autumn.

"The theory behind such reasoning is that the National Government expects a sharp decline in open market quotations as soon as more goods arrive and prick the speculative bubble. We can see good reason for expecting lower open market rates but see likewise some exceedingly good reasons for as early a restoration of normal trade as possible. Imports after all depend in at least some degree on exports, and while exports are strangled the arrival of imports is bound to be similarly reduced in volume in spite of temporary factors which keep them coming in some measure." —Reuter.

Schoolboy's Great Moment

London, Feb. 8.

Jonathan Boswell, a 12-year-old schoolboy, stood in the lobby of Central Hall on Thursday evening, the world celebrities at the United Nations General Assembly, and made a speech, expressing his admiration for a broad range of the world's children, and his hope that the children of the world would be united in peace.

He caught sight of the impressive figure of Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, India's Chief Delegate. "I would like to meet him," Jonathan said.

His companion happened to know Sir Ramaswami and a moment later the slight schoolboy and the senior statesman were shaking hands. Soon he was eagerly questioning the Indian delegate with the ease of a practiced interviewer.

Before they parted, Sir Ramaswami told the youth, "I have a son of your age in India. He is certain to be listening to you. I will include a special message for him. Tell him you have met me and convey my greetings to him."

Jonathan promised he would. Jonathan's talk is to be given as a B.B.C. feature and at about a quarter past seven in the evening. Indian time. —Associated Press.

Hurley Lets Off Another Blast

St. Louis, Feb. 8.

Major-General Patrick J. Hurley, former Ambassador to China, said today that by supplying lend-lease and other aid to Russia and the Colonial powers, the United States is "using America's economic strength to defeat America economically."

Hurley, who resigned as Ambassador to China last autumn with vehement criticism of State Department officials, repeated those charges in a speech here.

He said that one chief weakness of United States foreign policy is the result of "confusion and lack of clear directive and lack of discipline in the State Department."

He said that some Department officials tend to be "sympathetic toward the objectives of Russian imperialism and communism" while others were "compliant toward" or supporting "colonial imperialism and monopoly." —Associated Press.

Nip Soldiers Finding It Tough Going

Tokyo, Feb. 8.

Premier Shidehara appealed for more public consideration of repatriated Japanese servicemen in a nation-wide broadcast last night and promised utmost Government efforts to relieve their situation.

Returning servicemen have known the "grovelling of disillusionment," said the Premier. He added that one complicating factor was that funerals had already been held for many of the 40,000 soldiers who were considered to have been "lost" and who subsequently have returned.

Officials of the Government told Associated Press that the repatriated servicemen are growing increasingly bitter over the public indifference to their "present situation and past sacrifices."

Elimination of military pensions and other relief measures has minimized the aid given repatriated servicemen, said these officials. They said readjustment was one of the main problems of the Government but it lacks personnel for any adequate attempt to keep track of the activities of servicemen after being demobilized.

Many who are returning find their homes destroyed and their families gone without trace, the officials said. — Associated Press.

SINO-BRITISH CULTURAL BODY

SHANGHAI, FEB. 8. TO FOSTER SINO-BRITISH A SINO-BRITISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN FORMED HERE. AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OVER 100 DISTINGUISHED BRITISH AND CHINESE PERSONAGES WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING MR. A. C. N. OGDEN, BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL; MR. T. K. HO, DEPUTY MAYOR OF SHANGHAI; MR. CHEN K'UO-LIEN, DIRECTOR OF THE SHANGHAI OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY; AND SIR ROBERT CALDER MARSHALL, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Vocational Training Schemes

London, Feb. 8.

Labour Minister Isaac today replied in the House of Commons to complaints by Eight-Lieutenant Bewick (Labour) of the Labour Ministry's re-settlement and vocational training schemes for ex-servicemen.

He said that during 1945 the Appointments Service had placed over 30,000 people.

Vocational training schemes had not got into operation as quickly as they would have liked owing to the unexpected ending of the Japanese war but there were 30 centres operating containing 12,000 places and eight permanent and 15 temporary offices would be opened in the next three months.

By the end of the year, they would have 27 training centres in operation, providing 13,500 places which on a six-months training course would deal with about 60,000 trainees a year. —Reuter.

U.N.O. Charter Petition

New York, Feb. 8.

Alan Cranston, Chairman of the Dublin Conference Committee, said today that he would present a petition to the United Nations General Assembly to amend the charter, making the U.N.O. a world federal Government with military, police and inspection forces to preserve peace.

He said that he considered "the adoption of the proposal an alternative to an atomic war." He said that it represented the general statement drawn last October at Dublin, New Hampshire by a voluntary unofficial meeting of 48 persons. He said it does not reflect the official view of the Dublin Conference Committee. —Associated Press.

SEMARANG BATTLE

Batavia, Feb. 8.

A British communiqué today said Indonesian artillery, machine-guns and mortars are hammering British positions at Gombel, just south of Semarang. Eastward, R.A.F. Thunderbolts and fighters knocked out a

RUSSIA'S INTEREST IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

(By Eric Downton).

MOSCOW, FEB. 8. INTEREST IN RUSSIA IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE MUSLIM WORLD ABROAD—IN INDIA, EGYPT, THE ARAB STATES AND PALESTINE—IS REFLECTED BY THE SPACE DEVOTED IN THE PRESS TO EVENTS IN THESE COUNTRIES.

A STRONG CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SUCH INTEREST IS THE PRESENCE WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THE SOVIET UNION OF 20,000,000 MUSLIMS.

These Soviet Muslims naturally follow with close attention all available news concerning the economic and political trends of the growth of cultural and scientific exchanges between the Muslims in Soviet Russia and abroad.

Soviet Muslim leaders, including the president of the Central Spiritual Muslim Administration, Mufli Habbachman Rasulev, who has just returned from a pilgrimage to Mecca, have expressed hopes for the widening of contacts between Soviet and other Muslims now that the war is over.

The development of formerly backward states, where the majority of Soviet Muslims are located, is one of the most impressive achievements of the Soviet Government.

Commentaries in Soviet newspapers and journals with reference to the dependent races should be read in the light of this practical experience.

Most Muslims in the Soviet Union inhabit the central Asian plains—Kazakh, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tadzhik, Daghistan, Bashkir, Azerbaijan, the Kirghizian Tartar Republics, Northern Caucasus and parts of the Crimea.

RACIAL EQUALITY

These peoples are given racial equality by the Soviet constitution. The past two decades have seen great industrial and agricultural strides in Central Asia. Heavy industries are thriving where a few years ago there were a few mud huts. Schemes for large-scale electrification and irrigation projects under the five year plan beginning this year will still further increase development.

Tashkent, capital of Uzbek, is a good example. Twenty years ago 98 per cent of the population was illiterate. There was no university, no higher education, no theatre and no major industry. To-day, it is the centre of the great Uzbekistan cotton industry which supplies the Soviet Union with 60 per cent of its cotton.

Two universities and forty schools for higher learning have been built, as well as an impressive opera house, with talented artists. There are also more than 60 mosques in Tashkent.

A Muslim official recently told a British visitor, who was touring Central Asia: "The Muslim world here is changing in some ways because of the different and important training now required for Muslims. There is no hindrance to entering Muslim priesthood. Certain conditions must be observed, however, before one can enter an institute of divinity—conditions which provide for the enlightened minority. Each candidate for priesthood must first have passed a middle or higher education standard." —Reuter.

Social Security Plan

London, Feb. 8.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of National Insurance, Mr. Lindgren, told the House of Commons last night that the Government would probably offer a concession to self-employed persons in the social security plan.

If they were ready to pay a further 4½ p. per week, the Minister was prepared to consider reducing the sickness benefit waiting period to the three days proposed for employed persons.

The concession he said, relating to the discussion on the Government's bill, would cost the Treasury £1,000,000 a year.

Declining to agree that spinners' pensions should be payable at 65 rather than at 60, Mr. Lindgren suggested that the improvement which the Government hoped to bring about in factory conditions would make retirement at 65 less urgent for women.

He emphasised that under the bill, spinners would receive sickness and unemployment benefits. —Reuter.

BRITISH ARMY CAMP ATTACKED

JERUSALEM, FEB. 8.

FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND FIVE OTHERS WOUNDED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT WHEN ARMED JEWS ATTACKED A MILITARY CAMP NEAR TEL-AVIV AND STREET FIGHTING FOLLOWED. AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE REPORTED YESTERDAY.

The casualties included one British officer, one Australian soldier and three Jews killed, and one African soldier and four Jews injured, the report said.

The attack occurred on the Azro Camp for the purpose of "straining arms" the communiqué said.

According to the communiqué, a man dressed in military uniform entered the camp's guard-room where African soldiers were stationed and shot the sentry dead. More "armed Jews" forced their way into the guard-room, the communiqué added, seriously wounding a guard and the commander and looted the armoury. Describing the attackers as "terrorists" the "Palestine Post" reported that they had seized some rifles. —Associated Press.

Juliana III

New York, Feb. 8.

The Dutch news agency Aneta said today that Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, who had almost recovered from measles, had developed pneumonia but was progressing favourably toward recovery. —Associated Press.

Yamashita Stay Of Execution

Tokyo, Feb. 8.

A spokesman for General MacArthur announced that Secretary of War Robert Patterson has ordered a stay of execution for General Yamashita pending action by President Truman on the clemency plea.

After MacArthur's decision was announced yesterday, local officers of the Allied Headquarters stated that General W. D. Syer, commanding in Manila, could carry out the execution any time after the order was received.

Yamashita, found guilty of a war crimes charge by military tribunal sitting in Manila, was sentenced to hang. In a decision yesterday, MacArthur also ordered Yamashita stripped of uniform decorations and other honours, sentences signifying the military profession after a sentence of denunciation of the Japanese military leader as "a disgrace" to the profession of arms.

Colonel A. C. Carpenter, Chief of the Allied Headquarters Legal Section, said that it was purely a clemency matter. "The case is now before the President for action. It is purely a clemency matter, not a review of the case. He can grant clemency if he desires, just as in the case of an American citizen," he said. —Associated Press.

WHEAT SHORTAGE

London, Feb. 8.

Eight thousand tons of wheat will be sent almost immediately from the United States to Australia as the first step toward the emergency relief programme, according to the European U.N.R.R.A. office to day.

Meanwhile, the British Government is reported to be in touch with the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia on the critical world wheat situation. —Associated Press.

RADIO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 1946.

8.15 p.m. — "QUIZ" H.M.S. 1330 R.T.C. RIVER

9.15 p.m. — "RE-PIA" R.A.F. OFFICER'S MESS, HOUNSLOW.

9.30 p.m. — ZBW HONGKONG broadcasting on a frequency of 40.40 cycles and from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m., 6.30 to 7.10 p.m., and 9.00 to 11.00 p.m. also on 9.55 cycles.

10.00 p.m. — Daily Programme Summary. So hi Tucker (Vocal) and Phil (Tenor & Baritone).

1.00 p.m. — London City News. 1.10 p.m. — March, 1946 (Vocal). 1.30 p.m. — The Music of Fraser Simpson.

2.00 p.m. — Olo Down. 3.00 p.m. — Entertain, Donny Dennis and Budly Peabody (Vocal) and Ayl Gaud (Vocal).

7.00 p.m. — London Relay News. 7.15 p.m. — "Service Music Box" — B.B.C.

7.30 p.m. — Harry James and His Orchestra. 7.45 p.m. — Relay F.N.B. Star Theatre. Beryl Hughson and Rosalind Beryl and Members of Air Corps "Aid".

8.10 p.m. — "I rejoice". 8.15 p.m. — Radio "Quiz" — H.M.S. Es. Carrier "Esper" versus R.A.F. Officers Mess, Hounslow.

9.00 p.m. — London City News. 9.05 p.m. — "Music for Lovers". 9.40 p.m. — Billy Thorburn and His Music.

10.00 p.m. — The Hill Bells. 10.15 p.m. — A. Gra. d.ately. Programme with Cyril Fletcher. The song & instrumental. Rosalind Beryl and others.

11.00 p.m. — Close down. Programmes marked ENB, are recorded specially for Services Entertainment. — by the Department of National Service Entertainment.

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